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2008 CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON KICKS-OFF IN SACRAMENTO

SACRAMENTO - Fifty-five high school teams from across the state will compete in the 2008 California Academic Decathlon (CAD) Saturday, March 8, and Sunday, March 9, for a chance to win the state's crowning achievement in academic excellence.

In all, 479 decathletes will undergo two days of rigorous tests, interviews, speeches and essay writing at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento, CSU Sacramento and the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. The final event is the Super Quiz Relay, Sunday, March 9, from 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., at the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium. It is the only event open to the public. (See attached CAD event schedule.)

Final results will be announced, and awards presented, Monday, March 10, beginning at 9:30 AM at the awards ceremonies at the Memorial Auditorium. The top scoring team will go on to represent the state of California at the United States Academic Decathlon, April 30 – May 3, in Orange County, California.

Once again, the CAD will be providing college scholarships to decathletes thanks to a partnership with the College Access Foundation of California. A total of \$87,000 in scholarships to eligible Seniors who have participated in the California Academic Decathlon.

Seniors who have participated in this year's Academic Decathlon will be awarded a total of \$87,000 in scholarships made possible by a recently announced grant from The College Access Foundation (CAF)

“We are very grateful for their support,” says Ken Scarberry, Executive Director of the CAD. CAF is a grant making organization that funds scholarships, assists with the admissions process and financial aid, and leverages available public and private resources to support students enrolled in, or working to get into, college.



Decathlete teams are comprised of three Honor students (3.75 and above GPA), three Scholastic students (3.00-3.74 GPA), and three Varsity students (2.99 GPA and below).

California has won 10 national titles in the past 14 years of national competition. In 25 years of national competition, California has placed first or second every year but one.

Schools are divided into three categories based on their size: Division I (K-12 student county populations of 130,000 or more), Division II (K-12 student populations between 29,001 and 129,999), and Division III (K-12 student populations at 29,000 and below).

The California Academic Decathlon is supported solely by donations from businesses, foundations and private individuals who support this valuable opportunity to encourage, acknowledge and reward academic excellence by preparing and motivating high school students to achieve at a significantly advanced level through highly competitive cross disciplined scholastic events. Other major sponsors for the 2008 year include Genentech, Toyota Motors and ALL Student Loan.

To learn more about the California Academic Decathlon, visit the CAD website at <http://www.academicdecathlon.org>

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CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON HUMAN INTEREST STORY SUGGESTIONS

Last year's stories.....SAMPLES

1. It's difficult for a single school to earn its way into the state championships repeatedly. One family sending three kids to the California Academic Decathlon over a 10-year period is even more unusual. **Andrew Powell**, a Varsity student from **Hemet High School in Riverside County**, is following in the footsteps of his older brother and sister. Powell feels the pressure. He jokes that he has to "do justice to this heavy legacy that my siblings have left for me."
2. There's no sibling rivalry between the Campos sisters, who are making the 2007 California Academic Decathlon a family affair. **Erin Campos** is a senior and team captain of the academic decathlon team at **Vanden High School** in the Solano Unified School District. Younger sister **Elise Campos** is a junior and this is her second year on the academic decathlon team. Joining them is freshman **Tanya Campos**, who is enjoying her first year on the team.
3. There's another "sister act" to watch in this competition. **Karen Harriger, Tracy Harriger and Lorraine Harriger** are members of the academic decathlon team at Granite Hills High School from Tulare. (Waiting to confirm they're relationship/whether they're sisters???)